

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing as concerned, bi-partisan Members of Congress, urging you to reject the proposed budget provision that would rescind funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) — the Crime Victims Fund. VOCA was enacted by the initiative of President Ronald Reagan to pay for victims' services and compensations. For more than 22 years, the Fund has operated on money collected from criminal offenders, not taxpayers, that is then placed in the Crime Victims Fund.

In 2000, because of a great increase in deposits into the Fund, Congress began limiting how much of the Fund could be obligated each year in order to stabilize VOCA in years when deposits fall below the annual cap. A "rainy day" reserve is created in those years when amounts deposited exceed the annual cap.

The Administration wants us to empty out that reserve. They asked us to do that last year and Congress overwhelmingly said, "NO!" They are asking us again this year, and Congress must again emphatically say, "NO!"

Both the underlying authorizing statute and Congressional appropriators have consistently pledged that all amounts in the Crime Victims Fund be kept there for victims.

The VOCA Fund is a crucial resource many communities and organizations rely on for victims' services and compensation. It supports rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, victims' compensation for court costs, funeral services, and medical expenses. VOCA is the *only* Federal program that supports services to victims of *all* types of crimes: homicide, drunk driving, elder financial exploitation, identity theft, robbery, and rape.

More than 4,400 agencies depend on VOCA funds to provide direct services to 3.6 million crime victims a year. Protecting the Crime Victims Fund is perhaps the most significant thing we can do to fulfill our commitment to help crime victims. We urge you to again reject the attempt to rescind the Fund balance and ensure that the entire Fund is available exclusively for victim services.

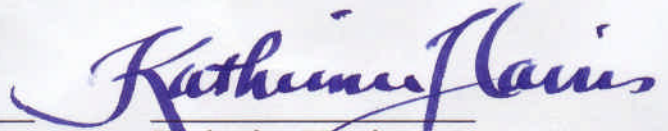
Sincerely,



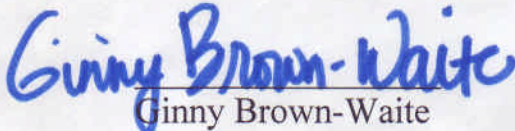
TED POE
Co-Chair
Congressional Victim's
Rights Caucus



Jim Costa
Co-Chair
Congressional Victim's
Rights Caucus



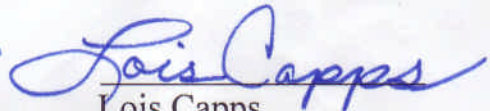
Katherine Harris
Co-Chair
Congressional Victim's
Rights Caucus



Ginny Brown-Waite
Co-Chair
Congressional Caucus
on Women's Issues



Hilda Solis
Co-Chair
Congressional Caucus
on Women's Issues



Lois Capps
Co-Vice Chair
Congressional Caucus
on Women's Issues

Michael Mattardo

Pat Gay
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Michael S. Stryker

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Tom Ullrich

John Klein

John W. Spratt Jr

Paul Carson

Barbara Cubin

John B. Rasmussen

Paul Rich

Barbara Lee
Dennis J. Kucanov

William McElroy

Neil Abernethy

Ben Chomden

Dana White

Michael P. Cox

Jayia Carson

John M. M.

Donald B. Smith

Paul M. Hjalmar

Li Gao

Jim Reichert

Tom Ullrich

Rush Holt

Tammy Baldwin

Ellen O'Rourke

~~Ann~~

Tif

Robert Fanning

Gail Price

Way Dunton

Adel E. Kildee

Mr. O'Connell

William S. McHugh

Rosa L. DeLuca

Dan L. Gahan

Mr. McHugh

Shel Bar

Ann O'Rourke

Doris O. Matsui

Melissa A. Hart

Todd P. Platts

Ann Quinn

Dr. Schick

William C. Ryan

Lucy Kelly

Jim Leach

Edward J. Murphy

Donald Payne

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John F. Tierney

Carlson McCarthy

K. J. Zong

Michael H. Michael

Bruce Nier

M. R. T. McCal

Op. Arnold

John Shadegg

Bill Delahunt

Ruben Hinojosa

Nancy L. Johnson

Tom Holden

~~W. J. Dindorf~~

Jim Cangelosi

Ed Case

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Jim Chabot

Wm. Lacy Clay

Shelley Berkley

Steve Israel

Jim Holden

Jim Oberstar

Mike Doyle

Charles A. Zupaly

Stephanie Lark
Tim Ryan

Ron Paul

~~Falconridge~~
Chip Pickering

John Smith

~~His~~ Minions

David & Joyce

Harold